

Brighton Voice

ALTERNATIVE PRESS NETWORK

WHAT'S ON

GUIDE TO BRIGHTON

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GRAND p4

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20p

NOVEMBER

ISSUE 109



HELL HOTEL

Some 30-40 people - mostly single but including some couples with children

- * have been segregated in a special "DHSS wing" of the hotel

- * are not allowed to be visited by friends, relatives or social workers

- * have been "fined" £1 for any incoming phone calls received

- * pay a £1 surcharge to enter the hotel after midnight.

These people are not usually temporary visitors: they are Brighton residents who have nowhere else to go. Some of them have lived in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for years and some should be living in sheltered accommodation with medical and social work support. The conditions they have to endure under the hotel's punitive regime are a scandal in the town and should not exist in the latter half of the 20th Century.

Brighton Voice spoke to Mr Jock Henderson who has lived at the Kings Hotel for the last year and a half. He told us:

"The management consistently refused entry to any visitors except DHSS people while I was there."

and he said that one of the owners, Peter Bawa,

"told some residents what personal belongings they could or could not keep in their rooms. One girl was evicted when she refused to adhere to Mr Bawa's instruction to remove books from her room."

SLUM LANDLORD

In June this year the owners of the Kings Hotel were fined £325 plus costs by Brighton magistrates for failing to allow access to an Environmental Health Officer. The officer was trying to investigate complaints about overcrowding and poor facilities. After the court case the Environmental Health Dept. forced the owners to improve the standards of hygiene and basic amenities in the building. But they could do nothing to change the attitude of the management.

BEHIND THE REGENCY FACADE OF THE KINGS HOTEL ON BRIGHTON'S SEAFRONT, HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO SUFFER UNDER AN OUTRAGEOUS REGIME - SICKENING EVEN BY THE STANDARDS OF THE TOWN'S NOTORIOUS BED AND BREAKFAST RACKETEER LANDLORDS.



Jock Henderson described what it was like living in the Kings.

"You got breakfast, it was the same every day - cornflakes, one fried egg on a slice of toast and a cup of tea. You got one clean sheet every second week if you were lucky, so each sheet had to last a month. Most residents bought their own because of this."

Our television lounge was separate from the one used by other DHSS residents and the TV set in it hardly ever worked.

My room was in the basement. It was about eight foot six by six foot, with just a bed in it. If you complained about anything you were threatened with eviction - no notice to quit, just out there and then. I was evicted because I complained about not being allowed visitors."

Jock Henderson paid £35 per week for this room. The Council's fair rent officer would probably set a fair rent of £8-£10 for a similar room in normal rented accommodation.

LEFT TO THE SHARKS

What has made the Kings Hotel worse than similar establishments has been the harsh approach of the management. But it must be remembered that such establishments are part of a system which gives state support to private profit at the expense of the homeless. In Brighton the DHSS pay £30-£55 a week to private landlords for each claimant who has to live in D&B accommodation.

There are hundreds of such people in Brighton and sometimes 3 or 4 single people are forced to share one room. So some landlords could be raking in as much as £150-£200 per week per room, on the basis of keeping the homeless living in squalor.

What homeless people need is decent and appropriate permanent housing. Yet this government, like those before it, prefers to line the pockets of landlords and leave the homeless in the jaws of these entrepreneurial sharks.

BRIGHTON'S

CONCENTRATION CAMP

send your letters 40 COWPER ST

STUDY WAR NO MORE

Dear Brighton Voice,

Thought this might be of interest:

'Students at Sussex University have a long and honourable reputation in opposing nuclear weapons and other weapons of war. However, it is unlikely that many of them know of the war work that is being carried out on campus - financed by the Ministry of Defence.

Documents showing the allocation of research grants to the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences clearly detail the war work being carried out.

Professor R.F. Grimsdale has been given £43,700 for three years from the MoD for work on flight simulators.

Also during 1983 the MoD gave a three year grant, with £34,946 for the first year alone, to Dr R. Holmes for research into the use of squeeze film dampers in rotor casing assemblies.

In March 1983, the MoD gave a grant of £3,375 to Mr P. Neiller for research into torpedo propulsion.

These are only examples. It is rumoured that even more unpleasant research is being carried out, but as some MoD work is covered by the Official Secrets Act, it is impossible to find out exactly what.

Details of the research have been sent to Brighton Labour Party with a request that they publicly condemn the University's war work.

Hopedfully, peace activists at the University will try and get the Students Union to take all possible steps in removing this obnoxious research from the University.

Name and address supplied.

PEACE SHOP: LABOUR IN VAIN?

Dear Brighton Voice,

It seems my words at the opening of the Peace Centre were even less memorable than usual. Bill Oddie was followed by me, not by the Rev. Charles Banks; he followed me. (I'm the bearded bloke to Bill's right in your picture.) The only reason I point this out is to correct the impression that there was no Labour Party speaker. I'm a Labour activist of 30 years standing. I was the Labour Candidate for Crawley at the last General Election, and a unilateralist since the first Aldermaston March. I brought my greetings to the Centre and those of Lewes Labour Party, the only major party, as I pointed out, "which is opposed to all nuclear weapons".

Fraternally
Les Allen.

REPLY

Dear B.V.,
what is a Labour Party politician doing seen with an idiotic TV personality and a half-witted person? The answer is: making a complete prat of himself.
Why not be introduced as a member of the L.P. why hide his unilateralism under his bushel. He's a member of the L.P., that's why. As for his claim that the L.P. "is opposed to all nuclear weapons" that's a debate I'd gladly take up.
Yours Peadar.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

COMMUNITY INFORMATION.

There are about 750 organisations concerned with 'social welfare and advice giving' mainly squashed into Brighton and Hove, according to East Sussex County Library's Community Information Directory. An inch thick, it has one paragraph each on organisations ranging from Bricycles to Transport Users Consultative Committee, and Brighton Voice to the Brighton and Hove Gazette.

As for accuracy, the Gazette is rosily described as "a newspaper concerned with reporting national and local events, with a heavy emphasis on the latter" whereas a more useful description might have gone "a newspaper concerned with making money, with a heavy emphasis on advertising", along with the Leader and the Argus too.

However, that's not really the Directory's fault, and it has its uses as a reference work even including a list of councillors' addresses. Try it if you can't find what you want in the Voice's own information page. We can't find room, for example, for the likes of the Nihilist Society, or the Civil Alliance which has the following entry:

Civil Alliance

Mrs. M.B.L.E. de Roland Peel,
12 Angus Road,
Worthing,
BN12 4BL.
Tel. Worthing 505683/44296

Meet at the Kingsway Hotel,
Marine Parade, Worthing.
To protect our democracy
against the threat of communism, fascism, nazism, etc.

The Community Information Directory is available in public libraries and agencies like Citizens Advice Bureaus, Community Resource Centre & Rights Advice Centre.

PINES SQUATTERS STAYING PUT



The Pines, Furze Hill

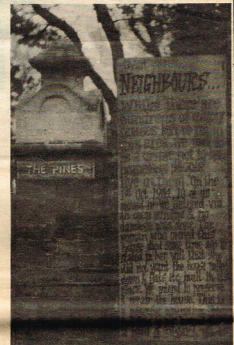
Amongst the modern tower blocks of up-market Furze Hill there are still a few reminders left of Victorian brick built architecture. 'The Pines' is one such building. Still standing but partially derelict, it is currently occupied by protesters who are squatting in its rambling remains.

DOUBLE DEALING

About a dozen squatters are living in the house in order to draw attention to what they described to BV as double dealing by the trustees who are responsible for its upkeep and utilisation. Some time before her death the owner of the house, Sybil Bowring, placed the property in trust and ex-

pressed in her will that it should be used after her death to provide shelter for elderly gentilefolk.

The squatters told us that she also stated in her will that the house should not be sold or demolished before the year 2000. However the trustees have obtained planning permission for a new residential development on the site and they have obtained a County Court order to force the squatters out.



The protesters have alleged that the trustees failed to maintain the house as a pretext for its demolition. They currently live under threat of eviction and have said that they will resist any attempt to move them.

HOVE LABOUR PARTY

40 Cowper St., Hove

Write to us
or ring 771834

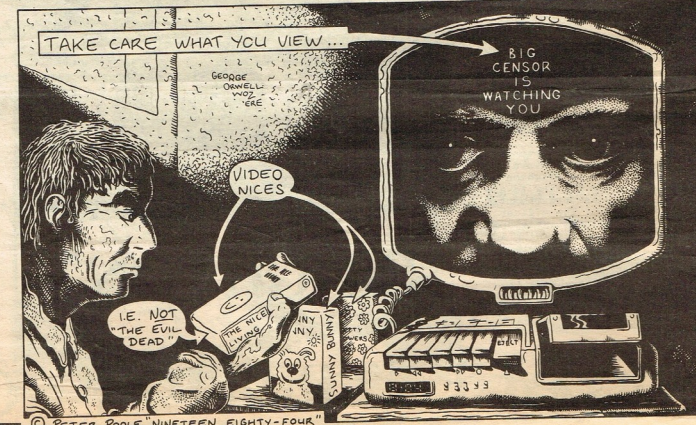
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BUGGED

More police video home truths

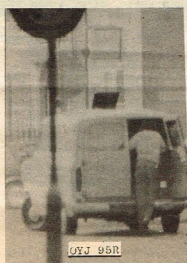
Brighton Voice News Group

IN LAST MONTH'S VOICE WE REVEALED SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUSSEX POLICE TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT (TSU). The story was previewed in 'New Statesman' weekly and our full coverage included two pictures of a TSU policeman operating a video camera which was fitted with a long range directional microphone.

SV spoke to the Sussex Police who flatly denied that the person or the equipment featured in the photographs was theirs. They added that they had never used the type of listening device described in the article and they refused to discuss the location of any of their video camera surveillance posts. Councillors Dave Hill and Steve Bassam have since taken up the matter with the Chief Constable.

On the Sunday before the TUC conference we observed TSU officers on the roofs of the

Brighton Centre and the Kingswest complex as well as Chartwell Court flats and Wheelers Hotel, at the bottom of West Street. At one of these locations we photographed these 'non-existent' policemen loading their equipment in to an unmarked light blue Ford Transit van, registration no. OYJ 95R.

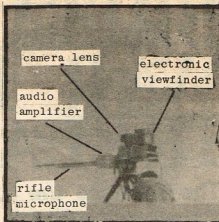


Press misrepresentation

Within 48 hours of the Voice reaching the streets, the Evening Argus carried a front page story entitled 'The Left's Spy Boob'. As well as carrying a misleading headline, it denigrated our evidence, suggesting we had got wrong in a foolish and somewhat amateurish fashion.

They 'revealed' that the dish-shaped object in our photographs was a microwave television transmitter and not a long range microphone. They were of course correct. However, nowhere in our report did we make any reference to the dish or its function. We stated that the microphones were 'attached to the spy camera' as shown in the pictures. For the benefit of our readers we have detailed here the layout and function of the police equipment shown in last month's issue.

Independent technical experts in the video and security surveillance field have confirmed that the long rod shaped item protruding from just beneath the video camera in our pictures is a long range 'rifle' microphone.



Such equipment is not new and has been used by the state security departments in every modern major siege including Spaghetti House, Balcombe Street and the Iranian Embassy. This is the first time the police have been seen in Brighton using these microphones alongside video cameras

Not a record

In 1979 the Cleveland police installed a fake jukebox in a public house. It contained a hidden video camera and wires led from it to microphones concealed behind bar seats (a fact police later denied). The DPP decided not to press charges against six people who had discovered it and removed it to show journalists. The police said it was installed to provide evidence of alleged drugs trafficking in the pub.

TALKING ABOUT IRELAND

The media coverage of the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel on 12th October was another reminder of the urgent need for a wider debate and informed discussion about British involvement in Ireland. As part of its educational programme, the Brighton Women and Irishmen group organised a one-day workshop which took place at the Lansdowne Community Centre in Hove on Saturday 13th October.

Although the workshop had been planned for some time, the recent events gave our discussion on violence (which was the subject of one of the smaller groups) a special relevance.

We began the day by showing slides taken when the group visited Belfast and Armagh on March 8th as part of the Women's delegation to Northern Ireland on International Women's Day.

plastic bullets

An exhibition had been hired from the London Women's Armagh Group which covered not only the history of Ireland but also described in some detail recent campaigns by women - in particular the campaigns against the use of plastic bullets in the Six Counties by the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

We showed a short video also made by the London Group called 'Get out of that garden' which recorded a talk given in London by Republican activist Mary Nellis. The video included clips from other films about Ireland as well as some material taken by amateurs in



the streets of Derry and Belfast. Mary Nellis describes on the video how she became involved in the Republican Movement through the 1960's protests about discrimination against Catholics in Derry's housing policy and the Civil Rights activities of the late 1960's.

speakers

We intend to hold similar workshops in the future with more emphasis on historical background. We also plan to broaden our activities by organising film shows and exhibitions.

We would be happy to provide

MINERS' KIDS NEED XMAS GIFTS



The Labour Party Women's Section is collecting Gift Tokens for Kent miners' children who will be suffering the full effects of the strike this Christmas. Please buy a gift token when you are out shopping and send it to B. Wilkinson, Treasurer, Brighton Labour Party Women's Section, 45 Loder Road, Brighton. Please enclose a S.A.E. if you require a receipt. Thank you.

speakers for other groups. If you would like more information please contact Pat, Kate or Sarah at the Brighton and Hove Resource Centre, c/o the Hanover Centre, Southover Street, Brighton (tel 694873).

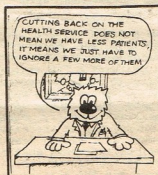
WE CAN'T TRUST THEM

Brighton Voice News Group

Health workers in the Brighton area are furious with members of the local Health Authority after last month's decision to put out to open tender all the area's hospital support services.

Not only did the Authority go back on its March decision to put only selected services up for review, it changed the terms for the acceptance of a tender from the one that is 'best suited' to the one that puts in the lowest bid.

"This means they'll let in the cowboys," said one nurse who was at the demonstration outside the meeting. "How can we negotiate with these people



when they go back on their word. They can't be trusted."

Health Authority Chairman (sic) Julia Cumberledge and District Manager David Bowden had in-

sisted that a letter from the Health Minister recommending that no services be discriminated against in the review procedure was in fact an instruction to put all services out to tender. Union officers from NUPE and GMBATU forcefully pointed out that the letter was no such thing, one of them openly calling Mrs. Cumberledge a liar, but in the end the Authority voted with the Chair.

"It wouldn't be quite so bad if any of the money they want to save went into improving patients' care," said another demonstrator. "But all that happens is that we get more managers in to push the changes through. Once there used to be 18 clinical nurse managers in this area. Now there are 49.

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BRITAIN'S WAR IN IRELAND

The road to the Grand

"The Bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton will have incensed workers in both Britain and Ireland", says the editorial of the 19th October issue of "Militant". Are workers, or anyone else, in Britain incensed also about the effects of their government's war in Ireland? The answer (with a few honourable exceptions), unfortunately, appears to be no.

The so-called troubles in the north of Ireland are undoubtedly a war. During the past 15 years there has been a state of armed conflict between those who support British rule in Ireland and people who oppose it. 2,500 lives have been lost and many more than 25,000 have suffered injury. Apart from volunteers in the British Army of occupation, the majority of those killed have been members of the Nationalist Community.

The indifference of British people to the suffering of the Irish contributes greatly to support for the IRA. The war in the north of Ireland was started by supporters of British rule and by British armed forces, not by the IRA. It is only the British Army's occupation of Ireland which prolongs the war.

The majority of Irish people do not accept that Britain should rule any part of Ireland. However, another cause of support for the IRA and Sinn Féin is the violence inflicted upon the Nationalist people by the British Army and their supporters.

Campaign against Catholics

Since the nineteenth century Unionists have repeatedly instigated pogroms against the Catholic Irish. More recently, the peaceful civil rights marches of the late 60's were followed by invasions of Nationalist areas by mobs of Loyalists. These attacks were often led by the RUC and B Specials, the British police force in Ireland.

Of the first fatal casualties in these riots in 1969, two-thirds were Nationalists. Two of these died when the RUC indiscriminately opened fire with machine guns on the Divis Flats in the Nationalist Falls Road. One was asleep in bed and the other was a nine-year old.

85% of the homes burnt out at this time were those of Nationalists.



REMOVALS
btn 205198



The Grand - An Act of War

The appalling campaign of violence against Catholics by Unionists has continued since its beginning. Independent studies of the war have concluded that so-called sectarian violence has always been started by Loyalists. In trying to force Nationalists to accept the unjust and undemocratic partition of Ireland, the UDA and UVF have adopted random killings of Catholics as their main tactic, this being the easiest way of creating the maximum terror. For example, in one day in 1974, 23 people died in no-warning car bombings in Dublin by the UDA (Daily Mirror).

Even the British controlled RUC admit that in 1972, the year of most assassinations, 60% of those killed were Nationalists. The figures for all those who have died reveal the same pattern. 60% of all the innocent victims have been Nationalists shot or bombed by Loyalists or the British Army.

Workers' indifference

The British Army of occupation has indeed been directly responsible for a large proportion of this terror. Sceptics should look at the book produced by the relatives of Nationalist victims in the war. Called 'Silent Too Long' it gives eyewitness and press accounts of 200 murders. At the time of writing, several years ago, the authors had similar evidence of 400 more cases. The statistics have now risen. None of these people had any involvement with 'IRA terrorism'.

Why do British workers not therefore notice the cruel hypocrisy of their governments policies? The vast majority of those in prison because of the war are not Unionists, but members of the Nationalist community. Similarly outrageous is the siting of almost all British Army forts in Nationalist areas when the source of the war is their very presence and the actions of Loyalists.

Until our troops are withdrawn there will be no peace or justice for the Nationalists. The war will continue until the Irish people are left free from British violence and oppression. Donald Shier.

BOMB FRAGMENTS

Brighton Voice News Group

When the Fire Brigade arrived at the Grand, less than five minutes after the explosion, some of them saw Margaret Thatcher coming down the back stairs of the hotel. 'She looked immaculate - as if she'd just been to the hairdresser's' said one officer.

The strange thing was that, unlike everyone else in rooms that had been affected by the collapsing floors (including Denis Thatcher), she was not covered in the dust that was everywhere. Was she really in her own suite, working on her conference speech, as was claimed?

BBC Radio insisted for some hours on the morning of October 12 that Mrs Thatcher had been taken away to 'a secret destination in Kent'. Then she suddenly appeared back at the Conference and all mention of Kent was dropped. Brighton Voice can now reveal that Thatcher was taken to the Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing, in the opposite direction entirely. Can the BBC really have been that confused?

While the police were frantically trying to make it look as if they were doing something by swamping the streets of Brighton, the rest of Sussex was left to its own devices. Burglaries increased dramatically in Hove, while in Worthing the total police complement on the Friday after the bang was:

1 officer in the control room
1 motorised patrol constable
5 special constables on foot.



Resident chambermaids and other lower grade staff at the Grand Hotel have to provide their own curtains, bed linen etc. for their rooms. We have been told that, as well as losing their jobs with the closure of the hotel, they are not even going to be compensated for the loss of their belongings.

Also, after the explosion they were all put together in a basement room, told they were not going to be taken to hospital to be treated for cuts and shock, and not even given a cup of tea when they asked for one. Hours later, those who had relatives living locally were allowed to contact them and be picked up. Now, no doubt for 'security' reasons, they have been told not to say a word to anyone.

'It's business as usual,' proclaimed the Prime Minister on the morning after the bomb. Indeed it was, as was shown in the Argus report on the Tory representatives evacuated in

the early hours of the morning to the nearby Regency Hotel. While the men sat around looking shaken in their dressing gowns, the Tory ladies busied themselves making tea and sandwiches.

At the Royal Sussex County Hospital, where a special new book was opened to record details of the bomb casualties, doctors decided that Margaret Tebbit needed a special machine to make sterile ice that could drip water down her throat without her needing to use her paralysed throat muscles. The machine was not part of the hospital's equipment.

So it was bought for her out of Tory Party funds. Clearly no-one is going to begrudge a paralysed woman this equipment. But was she the first paralysed person to need such facilities? And if not, why were they not available to other, less exalted patients at the county's chief accident and emergency unit?

Following a bomb scare at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, the police declared the area 'bomb free'. As non-essential staff were making their way back to their stations a hospital maintenance engineer quizzed a policeman as to what was going on.

The officer told him that the building was now clear and he could go about his business. The engineer asked if the police had searched the 'voids'. 'What are they?' The policeman looked puzzled. After being told that they were the gaps between the false ceiling and the concrete floor above, 'Oh well, everybody out then'.

LATE NEWS: At 4.30pm on the day of the bomb physics student Sam Coles was arrested on the beach in front of the Grand. Before he was charged with being drunk and disorderly eight hours later he was, he claims, choked, punched, spat at, thrown to the floor, handcuffed and dragged face down along a corridor. His story appeared in Unionnews, the student newspaper, on October 31.

When BV spoke to him he stressed that he had not provoked anyone or retaliated and that he was sober and not disorderly. He is straightforward and utterly believable. He has made a written complaint to the police. More next month, legal proceedings permitting.

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-Tory Party Conference-

BLACK CONSERVATIVES - A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS

Brighton Voice News Group

I WAS ASTONISHED TO FIND THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 70 BLACK AND ASIAN DELEGATES AT THE TORY CONFERENCE. On attending their fringe meeting, the delegates made it clear that they were Conservatives first and black or Asian second. Their basic aim was to promote the Conservative ideology among their own racial group. They stressed the virtues of hard work, thrift and a commitment to an egalitarian democracy. The majority of these black and Asian Tories were self-made businessmen.

Whilst I could understand the basis of their ideology, I found it hard to comprehend their lack of awareness about racism. I was told that racism - institutional or individual - did not exist in British society. It was a phantom invented by the Left or used by blacks as an excuse to sponge off the Welfare State. The Commission for Racial Equality and other parts of the Race Relations industry should be abolished. They only highlighted racial differences and hence were divisive.

On asking these Tories why approximately 80% of black kids fail the school system, I was told it was because of lack of parental discipline! Similarly 40% of black youth were unemployed because they were lazy and not prepared to do any work.

These black and Asian Tories made it clear that they did not believe in a class based British society. This society was seen to be open with equal opportunities for all. We could all be potential Kings or Queens.

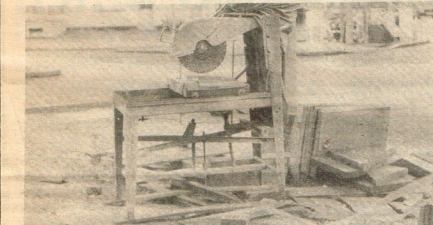
The black Tories said that they represented the black community. Which community? If they were representative, why were they the last to find out about the riots in 1981? These Tories speak only for themselves; the well-to-do minority section of blacks who have made it through the system.



Black Conservatives are a contradiction in terms as long as they refuse to recognise the existence of racism and class stratification. In this class system the majority of blacks are firmly located at the bottom.

This contradiction is exemplified by Derek Laud. He is the only black member of the Monday Club. He is the author of the club's policy document on race relations. This document states that repatriation is the answer to all Britain's race problems.

VOGUE JUNCTION HAZARDS



Concrete cutter - chips sprayed everywhere

Brighton Voice News Group

THE PERILS OF CROSSING THE ROAD AT THE VOGUE GYRATORY JUNCTION ARE OBVIOUS TO ANYONE WHO HAS ATTEMPTED IT. Now the contractors' plant located next to the public footpath at the junction of Lewes Road and Upper Lewes Road poses a different kind of threat to the safety of pedestrians at the junction.

Safety cuts

A stone cutting machine which is being used by workers laying paving slabs on the new footpath is sited within feet of passing

pedestrians. Health and Safety at Work regulations stipulate that persons operating the heavy industrial cutter must wear goggles to protect their eyes from flying chippings thrown off by the high speed concrete wheel. Pedestrians have to pass by the machinery in order to cross the road so placing themselves within the dangerous working area of the cutting machine.

The contractors are indirectly employed by the council whose job it is to ensure that they carry out the terms of their contract in a safe manner!

SUEING THE POLICE

Brighton Voice News Group

Research by two Labour Councillors, Dave Hill and Steve Bassam, shows that people using the civil courts as a remedy for Police malpractice stand a better chance of success than those using the Police Complaints Procedure. Sussex Police Authority have revealed that in 1983 out of 24 civil actions commenced against the Police, 8 were settled in favour of the complainant. A total of £6,289 was paid to those using the civil courts. A report prepared by Camden Council's Police Sub-Committee in August 1983 covering the Metropolitan Police showed a similar rate of success.

Referring to the local experience Cllr. Bassam said: "Although there were a small number of actions commenced, the success rate is over 30% and we would expect this level to be sustained with a higher number of claims, if the London experience is accurate."

The councillors are attempting to collate national figures on both lines of action as part of their campaign for an independent police complaints system (Last year out of 800 complaints against Sussex Police just 27 were upheld).

policing



Civil cases cost money: barristers charge at least £150 per day. Legal aid is granted at the discretion of magistrates, and briefs willing to take on cases against the police are definitely thin on the ground.

Serious damage

If the nature of a complaint against the police is considered by the complainant to be serious, i.e. grievous bodily harm or unwarranted harassment, then he or she may feel that they have to resort to some form of action.

However 'trivial' complaints made against the police may backfire causing more problems than before. We spoke to a local political activist who told us that he had made an official complaint after being arrested at a demo. His first court hearing was adjourned and at the second the police had managed to 'find' another charge against him!

OLD PEOPLE - DHSS PASSES THE BUCK

Brighton Voice News Group

When the State becomes diversified, strange things can happen. It can, for instance, appear to be saving money when it's not.

Take for instance the subsidy paid by the Department of Health to nursing homes which take in old people who don't have much money - £230 per week for each person - a tidy sum if you pack them in close and work your staff hard. The money put into nursing homes means that the local health authority saves money. It can even close down a few geriatric wards.

So it's great for everybody, except perhaps for the old people and the taxpayers, from whom the money comes one way or another. In particular it's great for the owners of nursing homes - and such homes are fast on the increase.

Not long ago lots of old people left Lancing 1 ward in Brighton General Hospital. Many of them went into nursing homes run by BGH's recently-retired consultant geriatrician, Andrew Clark. Nothing wrong with that, of course. No doubt the doctor is extremely competent, and he was in a good position to know a lot of details about his patients - including which of them would qualify for the Health Dept. supplement.

The only trouble is that now even the government is getting worried about its cock-eyed accountancy. If it were to reduce or even stop the subsidy to private nursing homes many of them would have to close. And then what would happen to the patients, with the NHS no longer having the capacity to take them in?

WE'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!

Brighton Voice now has a lively and expanding network of people who each month give us news and information about the areas where they are active. But we need more people to talk to them, to follow up the tips they give us and to write news stories.

Would you like to work on the Brighton Voice news group? You don't have to be, or even want to be, a 'professional' journalist - we all help each

other with articles and meet regularly to plan coming issues. It does help, though, if you like talking to people, are a good listener and have a phone.

Working on the news group is a good way of finding out what's really going on in the town - and doing something about it. Come along and join us. We need your voice!

I am interested in working on the BV News Group

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Send to: Brighton Voice, 40 Cooper St., Hove, BN3 5BN

LOOK

RIO TINTO STINKS

JUDGE BACKS MULTINATIONAL AGAINST SHAREHOLDERS

Brighton Voice News Network

A legal dispute which began back in June 1982 has finally drawn to a close with a legal victory for Rio Tinto Zinc, and with costs of £550 being awarded against the unsuccessful plaintiffs by Westminster County Court.

Shareholders Peter Lennard (of London) and David Berry (of Brighton) had accused RTZ of assault after they were physically ejected from the 1982 AGM, which ended in uproar when chairman Anthony Tuke (formerly of Barclays Bank) refused to answer any more questions about the company's dubious activities all over the world.

That was at issue here was broader than alleged assault against two English people. RTZ is one of the biggest mining companies in the world, and PARTIZANS (People Against Rio Tinto Zinc AND Subsidiaries) is at the head of a campaign to bring them to book for activities that have already induced many shareholders to disinvest.

Some examples;

Organising an illegal price fixing uranium cartel in the 1970's.

Showing total disregard for the land rights of indigenous peoples in Papua New Guinea, Australia and Panama.

Importing uranium from Namibia which is under illegal military occupation by South Africa.

Polluting the Serpentine River system in Canada with radioactive waste, to the extent that ten lakes have been declared beyond recovery by the Ontario Environmental Assessment Board.



Berry-Lennard Appeal Fund

£300 needed

David Berry and Peter Lennard need help to pay the £550 costs imposed on them by British 'Justice'. £250 has already been raised, which means a further £300 are needed. Please send donations to David Berry, 13 Clifton Street, Brighton, BN1 3PH. (Cheques payable to 'Berry-Lennard Appeal Fund').

If you would like to support PARTIZANS, or subscribe to its newsletter 'Parting Company', write to PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd., London N1.

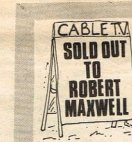


MAXWELL BUYS BRIGHTON'S CABLE T.V.

BRIGHTON VOICE NEWS GROUP.

"We'll need to work fast (if unions are going to survive the video age) because newspaper owners are already moving into the area. Robert Maxwell is heavily involved. It's dangerous for a hooligan like Maxwell to have that sort of power."

Aidan White, NUJ delegate, interviewed in last month's issue.

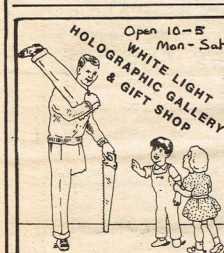


Just a few weeks after Aidan White made that statement, on October 19, Robert Maxwell's private publishing company Pergamon Press, bought all Rediffusion's cable TV interests - including the Brighton network.

As well as the Brighton operation, Maxwell gets 52 other old cable systems, the licence for a new multi-channel system at Guildford, a cable TV development centre in Surrey and a 14% stake in a movie channel, The Entertainment Network, - all for only £11m.

As well as Rediffusion, Visionhire also quit the business in the same week. Both blamed the Government's budget changes - stopping companies from claiming so much money back on capital investment - for destroying their hopes of medium-term profit.

Now only the biggest, best financed companies can afford to make the long-term investment in cable, hoping that when it does start to pay off they will effectively control the industry. In the meantime, Maxwell's takeover will probably mean redundancies for Rediffusion employees.



9a KENSINGTON GARDENS

UNCLE FRANK WOULD KEEP US AMUSED FOR HOURS... as will our enormous selection of postcards and fantastic holograms !!

IT WAS GREAT!!!

ANDREW TOWNSEND, AGE 10,

DESCRIBES HIS DAY ON THE

LABOUR PARTY BUS.

We started off at 3 o'clock on Sunday the 21st of October. I waited for a couple minutes for the bus to arrive. It was a red and yellow double-decker bus with the end of the roof sliced off and the best thing about the bus was that the loudspeakers were so loud.

Although it was great fun on the bus it was quite dangerous as well because every time we went down a road with trees by the side they kept hanging their branches in our faces.

We started at Pankhurst Avenue to let other children get on and let other people sign the petition against rent increases next month. There was also on the bus Queens Park councillors Joe Townsend and Richard Stanton and they were chanting "Join the Labour Party" on the microphone while playing the record, a jazzed up version of 'The Red Flag'.

A lot of people were waving up to us as we moved along. After we had gone through the town we went up Pankhurst Avenue to let the children who lived on the Queens Park estate get off and go home. After that we went to East Drive, our starting place, and got off the bus. As I had expected, it was the most exciting bus ride I had ever had !!!

RUNNING AWAY WITH IT

BRIGHTON VOICE NEWS GROUP.

Late in September when the Council's Highways and Transport Committee came to consider the application by the Brighton and Hove Athletic Club to stage the town's first half marathon, they were slightly handicapped. For the club had, so to speak, jumped the gun.

Adverts had already appeared announcing the race, due to be run on November 11, despite the advice of council officers that it should be postponed on safety grounds.

Unwilling to put the date back race director Alex Angeli risked the council not granting permission and started the publicity programme. His bluff paid off as councillors did not want to be spoilsports again after they had stopped the proposed Brighton Marathon last year, and so the race can go on.

One in the eye for stuffy bureaucrats, then? Well, yes and no. There probably won't be any safety problems: Alex Angeli organised a 10 km road race along the seafront last

year and all was well.

But two things are worrying. First, the hype in the papers and posters. The claim to have a flat, fast course where records may be broken is ludicrous. Flat it is, but for half the race the runners will be battling against the seafront breezes.

Secondly, one of the reasons Angeli pushed his luck with the Council - perhaps the main reason - was pressure from the sponsors. The race is billed as a curtain-raiser to the Fast Food Fair at the Metropole the following week and paper plate makers Keyes Fibres are putting up the cash.

Now, admittedly it's not quite as bad as the tobacco companies' involvement with sport. But despite Steve Cram's well-known weakness for hamburgers the idea of a Brighton race being run as a warm-up to a convention designed to increase the profits of purveyors of junk foods is, well, sickening. Let's just hope the competitors don't have to eat the fair's products.

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

The Zap Club's Neil Butler bubbles over.

Sigismund mops up.

Despite the frantic activity leading up to the long awaited re-opening of the Zap Club, Neil Butler's energy and enthusiasm remain. The morning I went to interview him was about a week before the club was scheduled to open, and he'd been up all night working on some unfinished details of the Zap master plan. ("The last three months have been the worst of my life. It's been one crisis after another.")



Unused to the early hour, I sat slumped in a chair feeling like death as Neil merrily made coffee. "How", I wondered, "had the strange mixture of modern music hall and performance art, alternative cabaret and mixed media" that is the Zap Club, come about?"

"I was interested in entertainment, but even more interested in live art. Through helping to organise the Contemporary Art Festival, by putting on about 300 events in 3 years we proved that there was quite a wide audience for that sort of thing. The Zap Club was set up to broaden that audience, firstly by providing a platform for work that you wouldn't otherwise see in Brighton, and secondly by seducing or drawing in people to see new interesting work they would not normally encounter. So the programming policy of mixing together entertainment and

art was an absolutely deliberate attempt to change people's ideas."

But does it always work?

"No. But it works most of the time. In my terms there have been two or maybe three evenings out of several hundred, which have been absolutely abysmal. If we tried to put on things that nobody disliked it would be extremely comor-mising and dull."

Reviving, I suggested that the noisy clubby atmosphere of the Zap Club favoured people who worked (for example) on the alternative cabaret circuit. They were used to that sort of environment while the delicate sheltered performance artist wasn't.

"I can recall people who have found the audience a bit difficult to deal with. But I think that's our problem. If we place them at the right point in the evening it works out alright as long as the performer is committed to communicating with an unspecialized audience. Sometimes we make mistakes, booking too many people on one night who require a lot of concentration

"you don't need to be an art critic to open your mouth"

but hopefully that doesn't happen very often. The Zap Club audience is very sympathetic to artists but also very vocal if they find they don't like something."



Neil raises the flag

"There's one place which worked in vaguely the same area as us, Richard Strange's Slammer in London. Then we went there we found the difference extraordinary. We don't aspire to being trendy, we want anyone to feel that they can happily go to the club. My grandmother goes and she's eighty, the students I used to teach go, it's very wide. At Richard's place it was very posy, and a lot of the work was, I think, performed for very suspect reasons, but nobody would criticise or talk about it in case they revealed that they didn't know what they were talking about. We try to make a real point of encouraging people to say what they think. All people's opinions are equally valid, you don't need to be an art critic to open your mouth."

Now onto my second cup of coffee, I thought it was time to talk about the new permanent space on the seafront.

"The idea of a permanent club was hatched about six years ago. We've been searching for somewhere at varying levels of

intensity for that long. We've always wanted to develop an arts centre, but not in the sterile established sense. This place was the fourth one we tried for. It's leased from the Council, not bought, yet we still had to raise £60,000 just to do it out and comply with all the regulations. There's two tunnels, one with a bar in it and the other with a performance area. We've got a video system installed and there will also be a shop selling, amongst other things, Zap Club rock."

And finally, the future? Butler becomes animated.

"Next year we're going to start a programme of avant-garde films, develop the video aspect, have outdoor events on the area outside the club, start doing children's theatre in the summer"

Mmm....

Sigismund X

PUNCH AND COOL

CACOPHONICS & DANCE FACTOR 7

AT THE RICHMOND

It was good to see two established Brighton bands still enthusiastically presenting unpretentious pop and soul at the Richmond and happy to see their audience on the dance floor.

The Cacophonics could not match the confident punch and visual cool of Dance Factor's mafiosi horn section nor the tightness of their sound yet this does not seem to affect the enjoyment of their brisk catchy pop songs. Indeed the thick, chunky loose busking band quality of the backing with its four-piece horn section combines with Simon Thomas' hectic vocals and cleverly constructed songs to give an idiosyncratic sound, particularly when the band joins in to sing on the South American tinged 'So Secret' or the marvelous exuberant pointlessness of 'Don't Drink the Congo'.

It may not be close harmony and professionalism but it would be a pity if the Caco-

phonics were to lose the quality that their quirky enthusiasm and humor bring to the music.

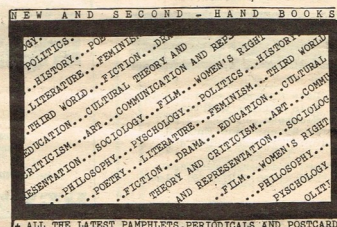
Dance Factor Seven played their usual blend of muscular up-tempo, up-front soul. Behind their dark glasses and masculine posture the horn section provided solid riffs, well structured harmonies and an effective counterpoint to the vocals.

When their singer added his trumpet it was a snappy, powerful sound, though one that tended to swamp the keyboards which remained inaudible throughout. The joint was still jumping as Dance Factor Seven encored with their lively jubilant version of 'Move On Up'.

Hector

The Cacophonics play a BV benefit gig with Intimate Breed on Nov 21 at the Richmond.

THE ODD VOLUME



ALL THE LATEST PAMPHLETS, PERIODICALS AND POSTCARDS

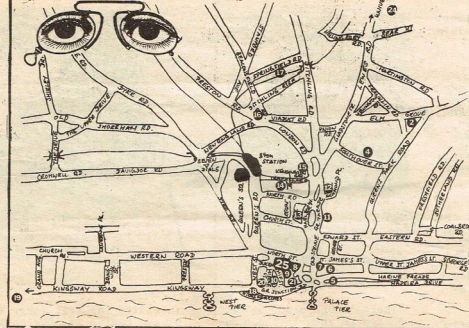
Mon - Thurs: 9.30 - 5.30
Fri - Sat: 9.30 - 6.00

53 UPPER GLOUCESTER RD
BRIGHTON (27845)

WHAT'S ON



MAP OF VENUES



1. Gardner Centre, University
2. Queen's Park Tavern, Queen's Park Rd, Tel: 88080
3. Community Arts Project, St. Anne's Hall, St. George's Rd, Tel: 887485
4. Remover Centre, Southover
5. The Concorde, Lower Regenade.
6. Royal Esplanade, Marine Parade
7. Marlborough Hotel, Princes St.
8. Pavilion Theatre, Bay Road.
9. Ford for Friends, Prince Albert Street.
10. Old Vic, Ship Street.
11. Art College Basement, Grand Parade.
12. Richmond, Richmond Place.
13. King & Queen, Marlborough Place.
14. The Kensington, Kensington Gardens.
15. The Northern, York Place.
16. The Stanford Arms, Preston Avenue.
17. The Springfield, Springfield Road, Tel: 881155
18. The Fortune of War, Kings Road Arch, Tel: 21328
19. The Adur, Kingsway, Hove.
20. Chantrell Palace Hotel, Middle Street.
21. The Alhambra, Kings Road.
22. Lansdowne Centre, Lansdowne Place.
23. Nightingale, Surrey St.
24. Ship, Lewes Road.
25. Friends Centre, Ship Street.

TUES 6 NOV - THU 8

TUES 6
Bargain bands: Astronaut + Laughter and Tears + State of Seige + Tower of Babel, Richmond, £1.
Latin Style: Cha-Cha Bar, Old Vic.
Thriller: "Two-and-a-Third" by Joan Brampton, see Fri 2.
Jazz: Max Dearden + his Big Band, King & Queen.
Escape Club: Strip System plus Support, £1.50/£1.
Tim Ellis & The Mad Continuum, Old Vic.
Thriller: "Two-and-a-Third", see Fri 2.
Dance: La Bouche/Anne Seagrave, Zap Club, £2/£1.50 (mem).
Pavilion Theatre: The Enid, £3/£2.60.

THUR 8
Jazz: Night Shift, Richmond, £1.50.
Theatre: Now Wash Your Hands Please, Siren Theatre Co., Pavilion Theatre, 8pm.
Thriller: "Two-and-a-Third", see Fri 2.
Improvised Comedy: Omelette Broadcasting Co, Zap Club, £2/£1.50.

FRI 9 - THU 15

FRI 9
Folk: Dave Peabody, Springfield.
Jazz: Iain Ballamy Quartet, Richmond, £2.50, £2.00.
Theatre: Siren - see Thurs 8.
Thriller: "Two-and-a-Third", see Fri 2.
Zap Club: Swinging Laurels, C&H Video, £2/£1.50 (mem)

SAT 10
Theatre: Siren - see Thurs 8.
Legend in Lifetime: Divine, Mandela Hall, University, £3 advance, £3.50.8pm.
Agit-rock: Omega Tribe, Strumpet City, Basement Club, £1.50.
Thriller: "Two-and-a-Third", see Fri 2.
Zap Club: Pat Condell, Flamin' Hamsters, Sally Patience, £2/£1.50.

SUN 11
Folk: Leon Rosselson, Prince Albert Hotel.
New Wave: Angelic Upstarts, Richmond, £1.50.
Theatre: Siren - see Thurs 8.
Synth Dance: Separate Red, Old Vic.

MON 12
Local Heroes: Peter & The Testtube Babies, Old Vic.

TUES 13
Rockabilly: Long Tall Texans, Richmond, £1.00.
Theatre: The Dock Brief by John Mortimer + The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter, Gardner Centre, 7.45pm.

Exhibitions

8th-30th Nov.: Gardner Centre - Gallery, Beyond The Repeatable Image - Three Printmakers from Ontario.
8th-30th Nov.: Gardner Centre - Foyer, Jonathan Mumm - Xerox Processed Images.

1st-10th Nov.: Prism Gallery - Rotimi Fani-Kayode - Photographs, 9am-5.45pm Mon-Sat. (Above Snowgoose, Church Rd.)

Brighton Voice



BENEFIT GIG

CACAPHONICS + INTIMATE BREED
Wednesday November 21
at the Richmond (near St Peter's)
Late Bar. £1.50, £1 usual conc.

Escape Club: Specimen + Jayn County, £3/£2.50.

WED 14
Dance: Wild Wiggles, Tightrope Dance Co., Zap Club, £2/£1.50.
Theatre: Dock Brief & Dumb Waiter - see Tues 13.
Jazz-punk: Betrayed, Old Vic.
Thriller: Two-and-a-Third, see Fri 2.

THURS 15
Heavy R&B: Dumpty's Rusty Nuts, Richmond, £1.95, £1.50.
Theatre: Dock Brief & Dumb Waiter - see Tues 13.
Thriller: Two-and-a-Third, see Fri 2.
Theatre: Compass Theatre present Odyssey, Zap Club, £2/£1.50.

FRI 16 - THU 22

FRI 16
Folk: Dave Walters Band, Springfield.
Jazz: Hayward Henry + Pete Godfrey Trio, Richmond, £3, £2.
Dance: Ekome National Dance Co, Afro-Caribbean Dance + Drumming, Gardner Centre, 7.45pm.
Post-punk/ranting: New Model Army, Joolz, Cockcroft Hall, £3.
Thriller: Two-and-a-Third, see Fri 2.

Brighton Jazz Club

KEEPING MUSIC LIVE
FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE RICHMOND
Nov 9 Iain Ballamy Quartet, £2.50
Nov 16 US sax Hayward Henry + Pete Godfrey Trio + Geoff Simkins, £3, £2
Nov 23 Bobby Wellins Quartet, £2.50
Nov 30 Gordon Beck Quintet + tenor Stan Sulzmann + vibes Frank Ricotti, £2.50, £2

gar, Cecilia
Toy, etc.

Market.
e, 10-6, 25p.
s-Third,
well, Pulse,
etc.

ht, Prince

Market.
e, 10-6, 25p.
Richmond,

Women are
8pm, Peace
women who
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omen's issues
March Violets
e.
Old Vic.

, Gardner
8pm. Anti-
comics
la Ballet,

Industry +
mond, £1.50.
ducation in
y, 12.15-2pm,
ntre.
See Mon 19.
r and the
rayed.

acophonics +
ed, Richmond,
- see Mon 19.
e, Wide Angle
Pavilion
all Texans.
h, Gabbi
Week, Zap
£1.50.

Corpora-
nd, £1.50.
- see Wed 21.
y Sandra
htingale,
£1.50.
on Girls and
up Club
)

FRI 30

+ Johnny
ringfield.
ns Quartet,
2.50, £2.
- see Wed 21.
mer's Boys,
l, University.
see Thur 22.
s, £2.00, £1.50.

IAS PARTY

of unemployed
people
2-6pm
(Sallis Benney
Parade

Money needed.
employed workers
lbbrook Road
for details.

VIDEOS AT UNEMPLOYED CENTRE
Coalbrook Road Dec. 8th
7.30pm

4 local videos:

Hanover CND
Housingcomb Housing Assoc.
Two videos by Vanefoot Video



BRIGHTON LABOUR
BRIEFING
WHO'S AFRAID OF
MARGARET
THATCHER?
SPEAKER-TARIQ ALI
THURS. NOV 15 8.00pm
SPRINGFIELD HOTEL, ex London Mid. Sun
LABOUR-TAKE THE POWER!

SAT 24
Afro: Kalimba, Richmond £1.75.
Theatre: Cloud 9 - see Wed 21.
Punky/Ex-Marine Girls:
Television Personalities/
Grab Grab the Haddock.
Comedy: Sharing, see Thur 22.
Zap Club: Cliffhanger plus John
Begley. £2.00, £1.50.

SUN 25
Folk: Ivor + Sheila, Prince
and, £1.50.
- see Wed 21.
y Sandra
htingale,
£1.50.
on Girls and
up Club
)

MON 26
Lobby: Unemployed Lobby of
Parliament. Details:
Unemployed Centre,
600881.

TUES 27
Soul: Dance Factor 7, Richmond,
£1.50.
Rock: No Strings Attached,
Old Vic.
Comedy: Sharing - see Thurs 22.

WED 28
Rockabilly: Helen & The Horns,
Richmond, £1.75.
Rock: The Avenue, Old Vic.
Comedy: Sharing - see Thur 22.
Performance Art: Rose English,
Zap Club. £2.00, £1.50.
Salsa, Jazz: Dave Bittelli's
Onward International,
Gardner Arts Centre,
7.45pm.

THURS 29
R&B/Punk: Sid Presley,
Richmond, £1.50.
Comedy: Sharing, see Thur 22.
Cabaret: Umbrella, Cabaret
Comique. Zap Club,
£2.00, £1.50.
Cabaret: Fizz Punch Flip Sung
Zombie Sidecar Pick Me
Up - Graace Theatre Co,
Gardner Centre, 7.45pm.

FRI 30
Folk: Singers' Night,
Springfield.
Jazz: Gordon Beck Quintet,
Richmond, £2.50, £2.
Theatre: Frankenstein's Graace
Theatre Co, Gardner
Centre, 7.45pm. Also:
Saturday 8.15pm.
Comedy: Sharing, see Thurs 22.

YOUTH FIGHTBACK!
Southern Region
ACTIVIST!
Dayschool
sponsored by
BRIEFING
Build Lys!
BUILDING!

Sunday 9th December
10-00 - 6-00 with social
sussex university
students union

CND BENEFIT GIG

Zap Club Monday 3 Dec
ONE DROP + Support
Prices £2, £1.50



Kempton Pier
Together on Christmas Day
Why not join a giant family
of people for a do-it-yourself
Christmas!
MORE DETAILS FROM KEMPTOWN PIER
110 St Georges Road Bth
Tel. 897493

Pub Quizzes

Exercise your wits whilst destroying brain cells
with alcohol. You may win enough to pay for some of
your drinks. Most quizzes start at 9pm for some
(like the Prestonsville) you should be there earlier.
Teams of up to 4 are allowed. Bring paper and pencil.
Here's a selection to choose from.

SUNDAYS

Concorde, Madeira Drive

MONDAYS

Prestonsville, Hamilton Road
Marlborough, Prince's Street

TUESDAYS

Wellington, College Place
Crescent, Clifton Hill

WEDNESDAYS

Eagle, Blouclaster Road

Feminist ?

HOW MANY OVER 20? GRAVITAD TYPE?
LOWEED CONSCIOUSNESS? RAISE
IT WITH US....HELP GANG OF FOUR
EXPAND INTO (WEO-FEMINIST?)
GROUP. CONTACT ALISON ON
BRIGHTON 412233.

MONDAYS

Singalong: Roy at the piano. Northern
Free.
Singalong: Queens Head, Steine St. Free.
Balcumb Disco: Zorba the Buddha. 8-11.
The Cavern. Ship St. £1.
Dance: 10-11, Brighton Belle, Oriental
Place. 10-2, £1-50 (£1 membs)
Alternative: Midnight Cowboy, 77 West St.
(below Seaford), 10-2
Meeting: Youth CND meets at 75 Willers Rd.
Alternate weeks. Tel: 500894

Psychodelia: Flower power pop..

Electric Grape,
Queens Rd. 7-11pm.

Jazz Guitar: The Grouchy Overweight
Band. The Greys, South-
over St. Free.

TUESDAYS

Disco: Afro night-Concorde.

Singalong: Roy at the piano. Northern.

Free.

Alternative Club: Transmission, Brighton
Belle, Oriental Place.
10-2am. £1.20/70p.

Jazz: Steam, Green Dragon, Sydney St.
Free.

Harmony Duo: Ron Hacher & Alan Murray.
The Cavern, 8h ip St. Free.

Afro Night: Concorde. (9-12) 50p.

Folk: Irish music. The Nightingale

Centre

WEDNESDAYS

Jazz: Jack Gilbert & Panama Jazz Band.
King & Queen. Free.

Alternative: The Flax, Royal Escape,
Marine Parade. 75p(50p UB40)

Meeting: Socialist Workers Party, Stanford
Ave, Preston Circus. 8pm.

Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of month. Non
Violent Direct Action Group. Up-
stairs at the Eagle. Phone (Andy)
873643 for details.

Jazz: Ian & Bruce-Road For Friends. Free.

Singaround: In the Bar, Marlborough-free.

Hop: Rock 'n Roll, Lewes Road Inn. 8pm

Hop: Rock 'n Roll, Richmond Hotel, 8pm

Social: Brunswick Community Assoc., open
social evening: coffee bar, disco,
games etc., 7-10 Lansdowne
Centre

Style: Disco: The Roxy, 18 West St.
£1.50 (£1.00 UB40)

Jazz: Jenny Watts & the Don Panley
Trio. Northern, York Place.

Free.

Folk: Pre-conquest nostalgia, Alison
and the Vikings. The Nightingale

Centre. Northern, York Place.

THURSDAYS

Alternate weeks. Mike Collier.

Andersia Jazz Band. King & Queen.

Free.

Alternative: The Playground, Queen's Hotel
Bathurst. £1.50 (£1 membs)

10-2am.

Alternative: The Void Club, Queen Anne,
West St. £1. 9-2am.

100% Jazz: The Jazz Room, Churchill Palace
Hotel, Middle St. 9-2am. £1.

before 11pm.

Reggae: Blues, Apollo Hotel. 10-2am. £1.

R&B: Joe and the Moondogs. The Ship,
Lewes Rd. Free.

Disco: Club Savannah, below swifts,
West St. (9.30-2am)

Dance: Rico Rico, Brighton Belle, Oriental
Place. 10-2, £1-50 (£1 membs)

Meeting: 1st Thursday of month.
Non Violent Direct Action
Group. Upstairs at the Spring-
field. Phone (Andy) 873643.

FRIDAYS

Disco: Afro night-Concorde.

Club: Subterfuge £2/£1.

Apollo Hotel. 10-2am.

Irish folk: Rick Burbridge &
Tim O'Leary, Queens
Head. Free.

Disco: Club Savannah, below
Swifts, West St. 9.30-2

Hop: Rock 'n Roll, Richmond Hotel, 8pm

SATURDAYS LUNCHEONE

Soul & Motown Disco: The Cavern.

Ship St. Free

SATURDAYS EVENING

Club: Escape Club. 9-2am. £2.

(£1.50 members)

Club: Subterfuge £2/£1. Apollo
Hotel. 10-2am.

Club: The Box £2.50. (£2 member)

Swift's (West St) 9.30-2am.

Singaround in the bar: Marlborough

Free.

R&B: Joe & the Moondogs. 8-11pm.

Kennington. Free.

100% Jazz: The Jazz room, Churchill
Palace Hotel, Middle St.
10-2am. £2.00.

SUNDAYS LUNCHEONE

Jazz: Jeff Simpkins quartet-free.

King & Queen.

Club: Siesta Club, Richmond.

R&B: Joe and the Moondogs. 12-2pm.

Kennington. Free.

Jazz: Steam, Green Dragon, Sydney
St. Free.

Zap Punk: Night Breeze, Old Vic.
Ship St. Free.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Jazz: Vic Richards. King & Queen.

Free.

Irish Folk: Traditional Irish music.
Nightingale, Surrey St
Free.

Hop: Rock 'n Roll, Lewes Road Inn, 8pm

GUG AND JULIE BACK TO FRONT POP

'WE HAVE A HEAD ON STAGE. Well....that's not supposed to be part of a big stage act or anything. It's just because we write a lot of songs in our bedroom. So I thought I'll take the head along and make the stage seem like part of our bedroom.....' says Julie, the singer.

The kind of music Gug and Julie play is difficult to explain in one word.

Gug: 'It's experimental pop. We try to keep influences out of our music as much as possible. New Order is a band we both like. Julie has more jazz, oriental on. It's a bit of a mixture of those things.'

Julie: 'We're just doing what we want to do. And if people like it, that's nice and if they don't, well....we'll just carry on doing it anyway.'

The band use backing tapes. Gug plays everything on the tapes himself. 'I wouldn't be happy if I wasn't doing everything myself, a little bit of a cheat in a way,' he says.

The duo have been playing together for a year and a quart-

er. Gug used to be a singer before that. Julie did sessions: 'I was really fed up with singing other people's lyrics. I felt really unsatisfied being that kind of singer. So I thought I'll sit down and write from the heart, write my own lyrics.' She did. Wonderful songs called 'Hello Venus', 'Oscar Wilde' and 'On the Hill'.

Julie says: 'We write our songs in a back to front way because often I work the melody out and sing it on my own and Gug starts playing things which fit in. I usually get a whole song in my mind. I go into it and work it out.'

You can see Gug and Julie at the Zap Club on 14 December or at the Pavilion Theatre on 10 November.



It's a hard life!



BRIGHTON VOICE INFORMATION

EMERGENCY

ARRESTED - RELEASE 01-603 8654
GAY SWITCHBOARD 690825
LESBIAN LINE 603298
NSPCC 553334
PARENTS HELPLINE 688633
RAPE CRISIS 699756
ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL 606611
SAMARITANS 772277

ADVICE

AGE CONCERN: Old Peoples' Welfare & advice. 57 Ditchling Rd, Mon -Fri 10-12.30 & 2-4 Tel: 683275.
ANOREXIC AID: Contact Mandy Minton Tel: 558166.
ASK HERE: Info, advice & counselling for young people. 32-3 Baker St. Tel: 685490. Open Mon-Med 2-6pm, Thu-Sat 11am-2pm.

BRIGHTON ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON PROJECT (BAPP): Info & advice, employment counselling, literacy and numeracy for those at risk of going to prison. Tel: 25998/551400
BRIGHTON RIGHTS ADVICE CENTRE: 102a North Road. Tel: 600972. Tue 10.30 -12.30, Wed 2.30 -4.30, Thu 5.30 -7.30.
BRUNSWICK ADVICE CENTRE: Welfare rights advice. Lansdowne Centre, 58 Lansdowne Place, Hove. Tel: 204876. Tue 1-5pm, Thu 5-7pm.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU: Brighton, 17 Ditchling Rise, Mon-Fri 10-4, Tues 5-7, 30 St. George's Place Mon-Fri 10-1, 2-4 Tel: 601664/5. Hove Town Hall, Tisbury Rd, Mon/Med/Fri 10-12.30 & 2-15.4 pm Tues/Thurs 10-4 pm Tel: 734811.
COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL: Advice on hassles with the N.H.S. 8'tn, Tel: 33824; Hove, Tel: 71166.

CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPT: Tel: 681118
DEPORTATION: Advice Centre for women & men under threat of deportation; also advice on immigration laws. 114a Brick Lane, London E1. Tel: 01-247 7848/2820
DNSS FREEPHONE: Dial 100, ask operator.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE: 10 Ditchling Rise, Mon-Fri 9-4.30 Tel: 673162. See also Housing section.
MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL: 58 Preston Road. Tel: 697997. 9.30am-12.30, weekdays.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES: c/o 21 Little Preston St. (Mail only)
PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE (BPAS): Pregnancy testing, counselling, abortions, vasectomies. Wistons, 138 Dyke Rd. Tel: 509726.
RENT TRIBUNAL: Rent, landlord-tenant disputes, security of tenure. 137 Preston Rd. Tel: 506381.
TEENAGE TELL-A-PHONE: Confidential advice. Tel: 565717 4-6pm daily.
UNEMPLOYED CENTRE: Prior House, Tisbury Place, 8'tn. Welfare rights advice. Mon-Wed, 10am-1pm.
WOMEN'S CENTRE: 6 Marlborough Place (Old Steine) Tel: 600526 Mon -Fri 11-2pm, Sat 10-4pm Fri 6-8pm.
WHITEHAWK ADVICE CENTRE: In community centre. Alt. Weds 7-9pm. Tel: 686793.

WOMEN'S CENTRE: 6 Marlborough Place (Old Steine) Tel: 600526 Mon -Fri 11-2pm, Sat 10-4pm Fri 6-8pm.
WHITEHAWK ADVICE CENTRE: In community centre. Alt. Weds 7-9pm. Tel: 686793.

CHEMISTS

C.S. ASHTON: 98 Dyke Road, Seven Dials. Tel: 25020. Open till 10 pm. Sat 6pm. Not Sundays.
PARRIS AND GREENING: 105 Church Road, Hove. Tel: 732216 Mon-Sat open till 8 p.m. Sun 10am-2pm.
WESTONS: 6 Coombe Terrace, Lewes Road, 8'tn. Tel: 65354 - open till 10 pm every day.
ROSS CHEMISTS: 3, York Place by St. Peter's Church. Open till 8 p.m. weekdays. Tel: 681396

GAY

GAY SWITCHBOARD (Info & advice): PO Box 449, 8'tn. Tel: 690825, 8-10 & 6-10 Sats. Women operators, Thurs. Also contact for Gay Community Organisation, Campaign for Homosexual Equality & Gay Youth Group.
LESBIAN GROUP: contact Womens Centre.
LESBIAN LINE: LL/Lambda, P.O. Box 449, 8'tn. Tel: 603298, Tues 8-10 pm, Fri 2-5 & 8-10pm. All calls answered in confidence by lesbians

HEALTH

ACUPUNCTURE: Clinic of Chinese Medicine, 6 Old Steine. Tel: 696716.

ALLEN CENTRE (Hove Centre for Community Mental Health) 54 New Church Rd, Hove. Tel: 729365.
ANOREXIC AID: see advice section.
CANCER ADVICE CLINIC: 6 New Road. Tel: 727213
CANCER SCREENING CLINIC: Royal York Buildings, Old Steine. Tel: 23344.
CANCER PREVENTION (Area Health Authority): Tel: 23344.
COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL: see advice section.
FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC: New Sussex Hospital. Tel: 734258.
HOMOPATH: Robert Withers, 64 Wilbury Rd, Hove. Tel: 24420/26777.
NATURAL HEALTH CENTRE: 27 Regent St, 8'tn. Tel: 600010. Malling St. Lewes. Tel: 3719.
SMOKING ADVICE CENTRE: Tel: 23344.
VO CLINIC: Claude Nico Centre, Royal York Buildings, Old Steine. Tel: 728486.
WELL WOMAN CLINIC: 13a Western Road, 8'tn. Tel: 774075.

HOUSING

BRIGHTON HOSTEL: For single homeless men. Volunteers needed in evenings. 18 Dorset Gardens, Tel: 682089.
FIRST BASE: Day Centre for homeless and isolated people. Advice, tea, cheap food, baths: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am -3.30 pm. 19a Montpelier Place.
HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE (Brighton Housing Trust): 10 Ditchling Rise, Tel: 673162. Mon/Fri, 9.30-12.30.
HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS: Contact Housing Advice Centre.
RENT TRIBUNAL: Rent disputes, security of tenure, etc. 137 Preston Rd. Tel: 509726.
RENT OFFICE: 22/3 Prince Albert St. Tel: 26471. 9 Palmira Mansions, Hove. Tel: 737373.
SUSSEX HOUSING MOVEMENT (Squatting): Tel: 608945
TWO PIERS HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE: Info: Roy Aiger, 1 Major Close, Hollingdean, 8'tn. Tel: 502158.

CHERRY AND THE G SPOTS

On one of their rare evening sorties from the rehearsal studio, the rechristened Wise Guys stood in for Strip System, some of whom were reputed to be indisposed on religious grounds.

Although hampered by an indifferent sound, a rather spartan audience and a time restriction, Cherry and the G Spots revealed their talent for imaginatively and thoughtfully constructed songs.

Their seclusion in Kempton was partly reflected in the seriousness of their approach to their songs, with that sought-for blend sometimes not being fixed in the mix.

But the potential of Karen's soft plaintive voice, the idiosyncratic mixture of harmonic and rhythmic sax with Nick's fifty inventive, brilliantly understated rhythmic work (and on a borrowed guitar) was very apparent.

Occasionally the sound was too full to separate the elements and so was most effective when it was broken up and the individual elements highlighted. But Cherry and the G Spots' commitment and willingness to work with combining and contrasting diverse musical elements promises much.

CHECK YOUR ENTRY!

THROUGH LACK OF RESOURCES WE ARE UNABLE TO KEEP THIS PAGE COMPLETELY UP TO DATE. SO READERS ARE ASKED TO LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY MISTAKES OR OMISSIONS.

We believe this fills a need in Brighton - please help us keep it up to date!

SELF-HELP

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Alcohol Information service. 190 Church Rd, Hove. Med. 7.30 pm
ANTI-SMOKING CLINIC: York Buildings, Old Steine. Tel: 23344.
GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS: Tel: 507012
HOVE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED CLUB: Tel: 776430
MEN'S GROUPS: Tel: Dick 693202.
MIND: Ex-psychiatric patients' group. Tel: 730369.
S.H.A.R.E.: For Parents of the mentally handicapped. Tel: 416468.
SCHIZOPHRENIA NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (8'tn & Hove branch): Tel: 33824.

WOMEN

BIRTH CENTRE (8'tn): info and support group. Pregnancy, birth & early child care. Tel: 689194.
LESBIAN LINE: See Gay section.
PREGNANCY ADVISORY SERVICE: see Advice section.
RAPE CRISIS: P.O. Box 332, Hove. Tel: 699756, Tue 6-9pm, Fri 3-9pm, Sat 10am-1pm.
WELL WOMAN CLINIC: 13a Western Road, Tel: 774075.
WIDOWS CLUB: 47 Tivoli Cres., Meet 8pm fourth Wed of each month, Unitarian Hall, Lewes Rd, 8'tn.
WOMEN'S CENTRE: 6 Marlborough Place (Old Steine). Tel: 600526. See Advice section for times. Also contact for Lesbian Group, Women's Action Against Racism Group & Women's Aid Refuge.
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM: Tel: 684604 or Lewes 4161.
WOMEN'S LIBERATION: Meet at Women's Centre every third Mon. Info Tel: 682026.
WOMEN'S SIGNING ON CAMPAIGN: Contact Liz/Caroline. Tel: 609786.

THE AGE OF THE THEATRE

TONY MILLER OF 'SEEING RED' INTERVIEWS JANE BOSTON, ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF 'SIREN THEATRE COMPANY' ABOUT THE GROUP'S HISTORY, THEIR USE OF MUSIC AND COMEDY, AND THE NEED FOR A NEW AWARENESS OF CLASS IN FEMINIST POLITICS.



Siren Theatre Company: Jane, Ruth, Tasha & Jude

TM: Jane, could you tell us a bit about where Siren came from, and why...

Jane: Siren came out of the late 70's women's group activism - we did a lot of street theatre around specific issues such as abortion, women's rights, heterosexism... Our anti-Corrie play at that time took us to the Houses of Parliament - from the frying pan of the street into the fire, so to speak! Others of us were working with a mixed group at Sussex University, which later transferred to Brighton, called 'Theatre of Sexism'. For personal and political reasons greatly inspired by the radical feminist climate of the early eighties, when we were all reading Mary Daly's influential work *GynEcology*, we decided we needed to work as an all women group. This is when Siren Theatre began.

Our first play, "Mama's gone a-hunting" was the initial phase of a group process towards clarifying all the political, social and historical issues around women's oppression. Set in the future we felt we could talk about the present everybody knew, and yet take more risks with it somehow. We also began to understand humour as a way to express things - the cruel point with the biting humorous delivery.

"Curfew", our next play, focused more specifically on masculinity and male violence, as the backdrop for a play which also concentrated on the relationships between the three women protagonists, their love for each other, and their positions in the struggle against male domination.

TM: One of the noticeable features of your shows is the way in which you incorporate music. How do you see the relationship between theatre and music?

Jane: Perhaps I should start with a little history: two of the founding members of the company received most of their informal training in music - Jude through the church, and myself through school. With women's liberation came the discovery that yes, men had always been identified with rock music, but why didn't we, as women, seize the opportunity and do it ourselves?

There's such a great psychological stumbling block to the idea of women actually playing the instruments. Sure, there have always been female singers in bands, but not usually instrumentalists - at least until recently. In the euphoria of the Punk era, when anyone - it seemed - was getting a hand together we found it easier to get hold of the instruments, and could practice without fear of the expertise problem, etc. Those 'Vaultage Days' at the Resource Centre were very formative, if a bit seedy!

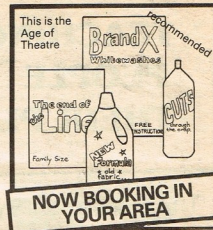
From this came Devil's Dykes and then later, Bright Girls. It was a political statement then and an aspect of personal growth to form these groups, to be an all women band. So from this, and simultaneously with this, came our theatre development. It seemed crucial in order to present a popular, political theatre to include music, with the surprise element of women playing electric rock instruments.

The next problem was how to interweave the two. The music became another voice within the drama to comment on the action; slightly outside, yet still within it. We can be cheeky or savage - we can do things outside of character and yet still maintain the tension of the drama.

TM: One of the most striking images of your last show, "From the Divine", was that combination of evening dress and electric guitars. Lots of people that I spoke to afterwards commented on how bizarre and surreal it looked.

Jane: Yes, it was a striking memory for me, tottering on high heels in a low backed dress into a cold auditorium, picking up the fender guitar and whamming out a rock number! Inside you don't feel any different, but you are giving out totally contradictory social signals... usually the one who wears the trousers wears the guitar! In that show we were very much playing with roles - taking apart what is masculine and what is feminine and juxtaposing them. I think this is elemental to our theatre.

SIREN THEATRE CO.



So how do you represent your ideas? How do you keep them revolutionary and yet broadly accessible, if you like? And the language, the concepts... we are so fixed in our old modes of thinking; we're trying to leap years ahead without actually having the mental equipment.

Tasha from the group took this away, and read a lot about the new physics, and similar problems that exist there. So the play parallels theories of physics and, if you like, feminist desires to spread the word, and incorporates this into a very anarchical show, more farcical than any other we've done. The play moves into new areas for us - into an examination of class. We felt that it was time for us, within a feminist politics, to connect with other issues on the left, with other struggles.

TM: Let's move on to the new production, "Now Wash Your Hands Please", which I believe you're working on furiously at the moment. What can we expect from Siren now?

Jane: Right. As I remember the early days of conception of this play, it was really the problem of Saatchi & Saatchi and the Tory Party, and realising that they were cottoning on to public relations in a big way. They were shaping Margaret Thatcher before our very eyes. We thought, OK, got a job to do, got to sell the feminist movement to the world.

Jane: Yes, I think that after the initial euphoria of unity amongst women, there's increasingly a need to recognise divisions of race and class - everyone's discovering a need to retrieve an identity that's been crushed, and in particular, issues of class have been highlighted by a government that increasingly and obviously represents only those who have. This has to be challenged and brought out.

"Now Wash Your Hands Please" is an attempt to rip-roar through these issues of contemporary Britain. It's potentially so doom-laden that we can only approach it through an anarchical and farcical style - there's so much to say that it can only be done at the speed of a train!

That's how we've conceived it, out of great fury and earnestness, and the results should hopefully burst off the stage.

"Now Wash Your Hands Please" has its world premiere at the Pavilion Theatre on Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun, 7-11PM November. Tickets from Box Office and the Odd Volume.

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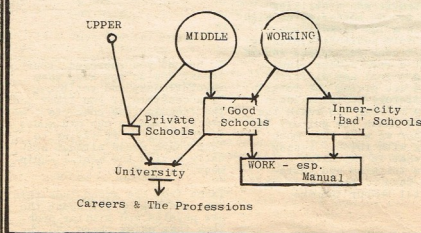
CHANCE!

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TODAY WITH SO MANY PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED, PRESSURE IS GROWING TO LOOK AGAIN AT AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT SAYS MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT WORTH EDUCATING, A SYSTEM OF SOCIAL CONDITIONING WHICH SENTENCES THE VAST MAJORITY TO A LIFETIME OF TOIL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GRADUATES.

TEACHING PEOPLE THEIR PLACE

The Education System



HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

Basically, the system is very simple. It transmits privilege from one generation to the next. So eighty percent of children of manual workers go on to become manual workers, eighty percent of children from 'professional' parents go on to careers of some sort, and ninety percent of rich children remain rich.



However, because there are always exceptions to these rules - for instance some 'working class' children become doctors etc. (through managing to work their way towards the left of the diagram), people can always say 'If this, the most underprivileged child can 'succeed' thanks to our education system, anyone can.' And, indeed almost 'anyone' can, although with considerably more difficulty than almost everyone else.

Education as it now stands is a bit like a race in which people are allowed to use whatever means they can to win. So some people use 'cars' (the 'pressure learning' of private schools), others 'bicycles' (the 'good' comprehensive in a well-to-do middle class area, with good teachers who expect the children to do well (very important in achievement)), while the rest, the 'walkers', have only their own resources, go to city comprehensives where the control of the pupils is the paramount concern, where barbed wire surmounts the walls and guard dogs patrol at night, and where the word 'University' is never heard - except in the headmasters' study to parents whose class is such that their offspring might be expected to go there, or perhaps on the grounds that they are 'gifted' (and, consequently, that everyone else is not.) If they're very clever they may even be taken to a private school!

SEE ALSO CARTOON ON BACK PAGE

The results of such a race are easy to predict, but such is our educational system. A process of humiliation for the majority begun at the age of five, and to all intents and purposes irreversible by the age of eleven. By the time the lucky ones reach university, they have become convinced that this is solely due to an innate superiority on their part - that they were born with superior intelligence to all their contemporaries and for which they deserve to reap certain rewards. (Similarly the 'failures' should accept their inferiority and get on with being slaves - automaton unworthy of the high-things of life, particularly higher education.) No matter to these graduates that their 'O' and 'A' levels are little more than monotonous memory tests, taken at sixteen and eighteen and then largely forgotten. No matter that university itself is for most students two years of four hours teaching a week and then in the last year a term and a half of copying down everything they can, and memor-

TORY STUDENTS BELIEVE THEY WORK HARDER THAN THE WORKERS'. Arrogance and evening out are the reappearing symptoms of an old disease in British universities



izing for the 'finals', when they are all grouped into 1st 2nd and 3rd class minds.

The whole absurd charade would be funny were it not that all nice jobs are reserved for graduates. Not in any particular subject, just 'graduates', as pages of Guardian ads proclaim.

While other European countries give school leavers an automatic right to higher education through policies of 'Open Entry', the vast majority of people here are deemed to be too stupid or too lazy to benefit from it. Meanwhile scientific, military, legal and administrative 'top' jobs are reserved exclusively for graduates, when really it's the individual's motivation and suitability that's important - and that's not something determined by 'O' level results, 'A' level results, nor yet even

university results. But that doesn't suit the arrogance of the graduates. They won't accept that it is their education that has bestowed upon them the know-how to do a task. That sort of approach is for plumbers, clerks and the like. No, their qualifications reflect an innate superiority and they have consequently taken possession of their birth-right.

And what is the answer? It is to accept that the benefits of education should be bestowed on all who want them, whenever they want them (witness the literacy campaign in Nicaragua). A country full of highly educated people, (the world need not as perhaps now conjure up a picture of a conceited bore) is a country where it would be difficult to persuade people of their inferiority to others. A country where people might demand the same wages as others - and the same opportunities. Yes, there are a lot of reasons why the present education system is so satisfactory for those who benefit from a social system it



perpetuates - but for those it oppresses, they should know where it all began - in the class-room.

SOME OF THE PAGES OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR GRADUATES IN THE PRESS - AND THE GIST OF A RECENT S.U. UNION MEMO TO STUDENTS

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GRADUATES

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CONTACT US AT THE BRIGHTON RIGHTS ADVICE CENTRE,
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1028 5/21/18 10:10 AM



112

13

THE

... ..

come on sisters - answer the call

FRI DAY MORNING AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DMSS IN EDWARD STREET. Upstairs on the second floor people begin their wait of between one and five hours to get the money with which they have to live, to pay for the necessities of life, the rent of their rooms, the telephone bills, the gas bill, etc. At 10 o'clock the room is packed. With virtually no ventilation it will reach a temperature of 75° and become fogged with steam from the breathing apparatus. After half an hour of waiting, the doors do not stay open and as one old lady asks someone to prop them open "with a chair" because of the suffocating atmosphere, it becomes evident that the fittings - benches, tables, chairs, lockers, etc. are all screwed to the floor. The doors stay shut.

THE QUEUE LENGTHENS



WAITING FOR FIVE HOURS - AND SOME DAYS IT CAN BE SEVEN.

That is, if its not in vain. There's no reason why this man should be made to wait to retrieve his money - once he got his giro when he signed - but the sufferings of 'claimants' is a matter of complete indifference to DHSS officialdom, planners and most staff.

An old lady whose pension has been refused her by the Post Office because her new book has been held up, eventually gets seen around the prison. She demands to know why other pensioners are having special arrangements made for them but she is just supposed to go back to work. The warden of the window assures her that they are "doing their best" and tries to make her leave. But the lady won't be fobbed off so easily and insists on seeing a supervisor. (When we left she was still having to argue for her pension while the DBSS came to see her and she was as being to get rid of her.)



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The waiting room has four reception windows - a pitifully inadequate number in any case if people are not to be made to wait for long. But now, at lunch, only one window still had someone behind it. Even the enquiries window was empty, as it had been since 11 o'clock. For five minutes some music dribbled out of a speaker on the wall, then gave up trying to penetrate the damp heat of the smoky room.

And the people went on waiting,
and waiting.



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DAVID UZZAMAN

THE LANES NEWSAGENT
ONE BRIGHTON SQUARE
THE LANES

WHEN THE NORTH SEA RUNS DRY

The Energy Issues Behind the Miners Strike

AS THE MINERS' STRIKE ENTERS ITS NINTH MONTH AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS CONFINE THEMSELVES TO DISPUTES OVER HOW MANY MINERS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING, HOW LONG THE STOCKS AT THE POWER STATIONS WILL LAST AND WHICH PARTICULAR FORM OF WORDS IS BEING HAGGLED OVER IN NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS WORTH REMINDING OURSELVES OF SOME OF THE BROADER ISSUES.

Here, Andy Porter of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association (SERA) takes a look at the crucial energy options which lie behind the battle to keep pits and jobs. Why, he asks, are the Tories so much in love with nuclear power? And what happens when the North Sea oil wells run dry?

THE ROLE OF COAL

The two principal uses of coal in the UK economy are in the production of electricity and in the production of direct heat in industry. The bulk of this demand is met by British mined coal, and home consumption is far and away the National Coal Board's biggest and most important market. In both areas there are factors currently operating to reduce the level of coal demand.

The recession has had a particularly high impact on UK coal consumption. Not only has energy demand fallen slightly over the last ten years but also the major coal-using industries outside of electricity supply (e.g. steel) have seen drastic reductions in investment and production and consequently are using less coal.

In addition the British energy picture is currently graced by oil and gas from the North Sea. Both have been used widely to replace the amount of coal used in industrial processes and on the domestic market. Within the electricity supply industry developments in nuclear power have continued at the expense of coal-fired power plants and further expansion of nuclear power is planned.

Finally, although British deep mined coal is the cheapest to produce in Western Europe, the level of subsidy provided is very small in comparison to other European countries. In 1980 British coal was subsidised at £1.85 per tonne, compared to £30.60 in West Germany, £63.35 in France and £88.89 in Belgium! Not surprisingly it's hard in these circumstances to win export markets, and combined with competition from genuinely cheaper coal from the USA and Australia, this also cuts demand.

Taken together these factors are enough to explain why the NCB's operational profit in the 1970's has become a loss in the mid-1980's. They are not sufficient, however, to explain or justify the NCB's policy of closing pits and cutting jobs - the NCB's original proposal was to cut 20,000 jobs and close 20 pits.

CHOICE

It is recognised that during the next 25-40 years North Sea oil and gas reserves will run out at current rates of consumption. This will lead to increased use of coal in industry and in the home: in the electricity supply industry it will lead to a 3-way choice between nuclear, coal and renewable resources (sun, wind and waves). Decisions made now about the level of production in the coal industry, about the balance between coal and nuclear fired power stations, and about the allo-

cation of resources for research into energy technologies, will affect the UK energy picture for decades to come.

Tory energy policy is quite clear on which options are to be favoured and developed. It does not operate simply according to short term profitability as might be expected - arguments about profitability are used to justify cutbacks in coal production or the lack of funding for research into renewable energy sources, but

COAL not DOLE



they are not applied to nuclear power. Above all else Tory energy policy favours an expansion of the nuclear industry and it is this policy in part that lies behind the current conflict over coal.

WEAPONS

Nuclear power in Britain began as a means of serving the nuclear weapons programme. Our first nuclear power plants producing electricity were converted plutonium producing military reactors. The majority of British nuclear power plants are of this design (Magnox) and until recently it was always claimed that they were cheaper at producing electricity than coal-fired plants.

This was always a dubious claim as it divorced the cost at the plant from the millions spent on research over the years - this came out of the military budget - and didn't allow for waste disposal and reprocessing. Recently the Central Electricity Generating Board has acknowledged that its accounting also ignored changes upwards in interest rates and thus undervalued the cost of past investment. Magnox-produced electricity turns out to be 18% more expensive than that produced by coal.

The second generation of British reactors - the AGR (Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactor) - has recently been bypassed in favour of an alternative American design - the PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor). A number of AGR's are now operational but all encountered such long delays in production that they will never even compete with the Magnox design in terms of the price of electricity produced. Dungeness B, for example, finally started up 17 years late at an additional cost of \$14 million (approx) for each day's delay!

The PWR is currently being promoted by the Tories and the CEBG as a major part of future energy policy. During the course of the Sizewell Inquiry, which is deliberating on the proposed siting of Britain's first PWR, the CEBG has had to acknowledge that the PWR has only a marginal economic lead over coal-fired plants and that this lead would be lost with even minor delays in the construction period. Secondly, it has had to acknowledge that the excess of generating capacity is now so high that a new reactor is not needed - coal-fired plants will be closed down before the end of their working lives to make way for it. Yet if the Sizewell Inquiry approves the

FEATURES

WHY

Why do the Tories like nuclear power? In the first place, as was revealed by Cabinet minutes leaked back in 1979, it is being used deliberately to undermine the power of the miners. It has always been one of Thatcher's long term policies to reconstruct British industry and society in such a way as to reduce Trade Unions to a state of powerless irrelevance. If the miners cannot be easily defeated their power can be greatly reduced by developing an alternative and state-controlled means of producing electricity - nuclear power.

Secondly, a nuclear programme in some form is necessary for the continued production of plutonium. It is fairly certain that plutonium from British 'civil' reactors has ended up in UK and USA nuclear warheads. Furthermore, enrichment, reprocessing and waste disposal facilities are all essential to the nuclear weapons programme but can currently be presented as 'civil' technologies.

Thirdly, nuclear power is a source of great profit - not to the national economies (such as ours) which subsidise and consume its end products (electricity and bombs) but to the handful of multinational companies which control the market in uranium mining and nuclear technology. One of Britain's most profitable companies - Rio Tinto Zinc - is, for example, the world's largest uranium mining corporation. In promoting nuclear power the Tories put the power and the profits of the multinationals ahead of the interests of the national economy.

CONT ON 15

* See also p6

SUPPORT the miners!



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WHEN THE NORTH SEA RUNS DRY

(continued)

The dangers of nuclear power have been well documented elsewhere. At every stage in the production process workers, the environment and the public are exposed to the dangers of radiation. In short, nuclear power is dangerous, expensive and unnecessary. Fortunately, alternative options in energy policy are open to us - options in which coal has an important role to play.

COAL & RENEWABLES

Eventually, as the world's fossil fuel reserves and uranium supplies are used up, most energy will have to be provided by renewable technologies such as solar, wind and wave power. Britain, however, has coal reserves for over 300 years at current rates of consumption. Whatever the long term balance in UK energy provision between coal and renewables, it is clear that, in the absence of nuclear power, coal has a major role to play, during the next 50 years at least.

Partly due to the dearth of research funding, renewable energy technologies have yet to reach the stage where they could take over the bulk of UK energy production. (More money is spent each year on advertising the nuclear industry than is spent on research into renewables.) Greater reliance on renewables will rest largely on reducing energy demand through conservation methods, and this is a long term operation.

Immediately available is the option of converting coal-fired power stations to provide Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and introducing measures to reduce their sulphur emissions - the introduction of fluidised bed boilers would all but eliminate acid rain from this source. CHP is a major conservation exercise in itself, involving the piping of waste heat from power stations into homes for domestic heating.

Renewable energy inputs could be developed alongside a coal-fired CHP programme with renewables gradually taking up a greater part of the energy load.

THE NEED FOR MORE COAL

But even allowing for little or no economic growth and some development of conservation and renewables, coal production will have to increase during the next 50 years. The only alternative is a massive expansion of the nuclear programme and even that could not offset the increased demand for coal in industry as oil and gas run out. If nuclear power is dropped, demand for coal would double or even treble. Coal demand is currently lower than the industry's productive capacity but this situation will be short-lived. Closing workable pits now is simply destroying resources that will be needed in the future, as it is often impossible to re-open a seam once it has been closed off.

Looked at in this perspective the current strike is not only about saving jobs and communities, not only about the balance of power in society - it is also about what kind of energy infrastructure and what kind of industry will develop in the UK over the next 50 years.

Arthur Scargill, presented in the media as a dogmatic villain selfishly defending sectional interests, emerges as leading a strike in which the possibility of an ecologically viable safe-energy future is at stake.

The best way to oppose nuclear power in Brighton in 1984 is to join the miners' support group - meetings every Wednesday, 8pm at 179 Leves Road.

The local SEPA group is being re-formed this month. It will work on the issues discussed here and on other issues to do with socialism and the environment. For more details ring Andy on 678643.

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REBUILDING THE VOICE

Readers & Producers Meeting

Deadlines For Next Issue

This month the Readers and Producers Meeting will be trying to rebuild the Groups that make up the Brighton Voice. Readers and Collective members are urged to come along and consider General Policy issues and make suggestions for the future.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11th at 8pm
Stanford Arms, Preston Circus

DEADLINES DEADLINES DEADLINES

THE DEADLINES FOR THE DEC/JAN ISSUE ARE: ARTICLES, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS... NOVEMBER 20th... WHAT'S ON/STOP PRESS (100 WORDS) SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24th. PLEASE STICK TO THE DEADLINES. IT MAKES LIFE EASIER.

WE WANT YOUR MONEY

BRIGHTON VOICE is not funded by government or council grants or by any political party, so it needs supporters to put it on a more secure financial basis by giving regular sums of money. These will be used mainly for buying materials and equipment to improve the production of the paper.

Can you give £1, £2 or £5 each month to help Brighton Voice survive? If so, please fill in the standing order form below.



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With the aid of his metal rod, the Water Man listens to the good vibrations of the town.



At 35, Bill Taylor landed one of those high profile posts they always told him about at Burnhill Police Staff College. Commander in the Met (that makes him one of Sir Kenneth's golden boys, he's really shooting for the top).
He's now in charge of one of those rough and ready East End districts that give the Metropolitan Police such a reputation on picket lines up and down the country. If he plays his cards right, the BBC may start making adventure serials about his 'patch'. If he's not so careful, he may get some unwanted attention from left-wing documentary film-makers and trouble-makers.
Obviously long service has nothing to do with Bill's meteoric rise to the heights. It takes exceptional qualities to get to the top.
The ability to manage and manipulate.
To cover-up tricky situations and act with discretion.
To take the kind of decisions that can profoundly affect people's lives, without a thought for their feelings.
Naturally, only the most tame minds make it - and having the kind of face that gets you noticed helps too.
If you're on the dole and feeling bored, think how much more fun you would have kicking the shit out of pickets and harassing working people.
If you join the Met, you too might have your picture in the papers by 1993.



GUY FAWKES

The most amazing aspect of the post-Brighton extravaganza was the description of a man they wanted to interview issued by the Sussex police on the Friday. It went:
"A man, aged about 35, thin brown hair swept back at the sides. He had a moustache and a long pointed beard which came down to the middle of his chest." One idiot BBC reporter immediately inquired if the beard could have been a disguise - presumably so as not to attract attention! But on Friday evening somebody obviously took the chief constable of Sussex to one side and explained that the man described was unlikely to have been involved. On Saturday he was "eliminated from our enquiries". Guy Fawkes has been dead for several years.
AP/RN

FIRST PLACE

The London listings magazine *City Limits* announces in the current issue, its 1984 Birthday Honours' based on the votes of its readers. They include 'Best Singer', 'Best Film', 'Most Boring Topic of Conversation' and a category entitled 'Person you would most like to see floating down the Thames face downwards'. Voted in to first place for this honour was, of course, Margaret Thatcher. Obviously a little uneasy about this, after recent events, *City Limits* added: "This category represents a joke on Remembrance grounds. It may be revised..." Nevertheless it's the voters' choice. And that's what democracy is all about.

UNIFORMS

Remember our front page story from Issue 103 when we disclosed disturbing evidence that troops might have been used on the picket lines? Well, now we learn that according to miners picketing the Coal Board HQ in London, over 1000 police uniforms (received as part of an original order of 2000 by West Constabulary) have been delivered to the army at Connaught Barracks, Dover.
A fancy dress ball perhaps?
Black Flag)



vile rumour

COLD COMFORT

We hope that workers made redundant from STC's Hollingbury factory will take great comfort from the money paid out to another worker cast into unemployment by the firm.
Michael Edwardes (yes, the former BL boss) had been Chairman of ICL for six whole months when the company was taken over by STC. Not requiring his services any longer, STC has rewarded him for his past work with a redundancy settlement reported to be half a million pounds.
We are therefore confident that Hollingbury workers who have been with the company for considerably longer than that will now no longer have to play newspaper bingo in order to become millionaires. Or could we be wrong?

Putney residents will probably be aware that their M.P., David Mellor, is the Home Office Minister responsible for the experiments carried out on animals in laboratories across Britain.
We have heard a whisper suggesting that this upstanding man has been causing a furore over an Iranian diplomat's slaughter of a sheep in a Southampton street.
Yes, we know it can't be true. These rumours get sillier each month!
After all, there's just no way anyone (even David Mellor) would try and gain television publicity to complain about a single dead sheep in Southampton, when thousands of animals a month are being barbarically slaughtered, electrocuted, maimed, and experimented upon with his blessing - IS THERE?
PAVEMENT

